



A community fund is established to provide Pursuit Grants that financially boost student efforts to become trained and skilled assets to the local workforce. The grants also support local business partners seeking to equip their next generation of talent.

Pursuit Grants reduce the costs of career training coursework and post-secondary certifications that are beyond the scope of traditional high school.

### Eligibility:

Applicants are eligible to apply for a Pursuit Grant as early as the calendar year in which they begin their senior year of high school. Eligibility continues for a 36-month period following high school graduation. Qualifying students must be currently enrolled or a graduate of either the Marion Independent or Linn-Mar Community School District, reside in either school district, or be a young adult returning to the area for full time employment. Any applicant who receives a Pursuit Grant is no longer eligible to apply in the future.

### Maximum Grant:

Grant awards will not exceed \$4,000 per student.

### Match Requirements:

Grants shall have a 2:1 cash match provided by a combination of the student AND a partnering business for the first \$12,000 of training. Student contribution should not exceed 1/3 of total cost of training. Additionally, the total grant award will not exceed 1/3 of total training costs. Students must contribute financially in some way towards training costs in order to qualify for the grant. Other secured grant funds or last dollar scholarships may count towards a student's contribution.

### Allowable Uses:

Grants funds may only be used to cover college tuition, certifications, or vocational training costs. All approved grants funds will be paid directly to the school or provider of the funded training once the expenses are incurred and all match requirements met.

### Application Process:

Students are required to complete the full grant application and provide other requested attachments prior to funding consideration. All applicants must be accompanied by a letter of support from the sponsoring business.

Qualifying business partners must be located in Linn County, Iowa or uniquely approved by Marion Economic Development Corporation. Students who did not graduate from Linn-Mar or Marion must agree to establish residency in the City of Marion once full-time employment begins.

### Funding:

Dollars may not be available should requests exceed available grant funds in any given year. All applications will be reviewed and approved by the Community Promise Grants Committee as they are received.

### Timeline for Completing Training:

All training funded by Pursuit Grants must be complete within 12 months of the award date.

# Applicant Information

First Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Year of High School Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pursuit Promise & Career Preparedness

*Please attach resume and Pursuit Promise*

Have you completed a Pursuit Promise? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business that Pursuit Promise is with: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Name at Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to work for this business? (250 word limit) \_\_\_\_\_

What are your short term career goals? (250 word limit)

Empty response box for short term career goals.

What are your long term career goals? (250 word limit)

Empty response box for long term career goals.

## Financial Information

 [Download our grant calculator here!](#)

Total cost of proposed career training (the next four items should total this line): \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars to be paid by applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars to be paid by business: \_\_\_\_\_

Sources of funding for applicant contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested Pursuit Grant: \_\_\_\_\_

## References

Please provide one personal, one teacher, and one professional reference. Your personal reference should be a non-related adult whom you have known outside of the school environment and who can vouch for your personal character and work ethic. Your teacher reference should be a teacher who knows your abilities well and can speak to your strengths in an academic area that relates to the career you are pursuing. Your professional reference may most likely be an individual from your partnering organization who can comment on your performance and interaction in a work environment. Ask all references for their permission to use them as a reference on your application. **Please submit a letter of recommendation from each reference provided.**

### *Personal Reference:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your relationship to this individual: \_\_\_\_\_

# References, Cont'd.

## Teacher Reference:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject(s) Taught: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your relationship to this individual: \_\_\_\_\_

## Professional Reference:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your relationship to this individual \_\_\_\_\_

# Signatures

Upon grant approval, students become contractually obligated to complete the funded training. Should a student choose to not complete the funded training, the applicant may be considered in default of this agreement and grant funds may be subject to repayment based on percentage of training completed. Grant funds shall be considered last dollars in and will be disbursed to cover incurred costs once proof of business and individual investment has been satisfied.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Business Partner: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Include the following documents with this application:

My resume is attached

Academic Plan

Letters of Recommendation

Pursuit Promise

Financial Plan

## Submit.

**Online:**

[www.medcoiowa.org/pursuitgrant](http://www.medcoiowa.org/pursuitgrant)

**Mail:**

**Marion Economic Development / Marion Community Promise**

**1225 6th Avenue, Suite 100**

**Marion, IA 52302**

